

# DO IT YOURSELF PACKET

Enrichment & Comfort  
Items for Cats



Thank you for your interest in helping the animals at San Diego Humane Society! We would not be able to provide the level of care and commitment to our animals without the help of people like you. This *Do It Yourself* packet outlines several projects that are fun and easy and will help the animals have a more enriched experience while in our care. A Volunteer Log is included on the last page if needed for service hours.

To receive a service letter, please scan the Volunteer Log and email it to [volunteercenter@sdhumane.org](mailto:volunteercenter@sdhumane.org)

You may drop off items at any of our campuses Tuesday-Sunday from 9:00am-6:00pm:

**San Diego**  
5500 Gaines Street  
San Diego, CA

**El Cajon**  
1373 N. Marshall Ave.  
El Cajon, CA

**Escondido**  
3500 Burnet Drive  
Escondido, CA

**Oceanside**  
572 Airport Road  
Oceanside, CA



# CAT POM-POM

## Materials:

- Fleece
- Scissors
- Feathers, bells

## Instructions:

1. Cut several small strips of fleece.
2. Make a stack of at least 20 strips and use one strip to tie them together in the center, creating a puff.
3. Puffs can be attached to the ends of either a braid tug toy (made by braiding three pieces of fabric together), or left separate.
4. Attach bells and feathers for extra fun!
5. *Note: Please do not use yarn to make the pom-poms. The cats can unravel the yarn and create a safety hazard.*



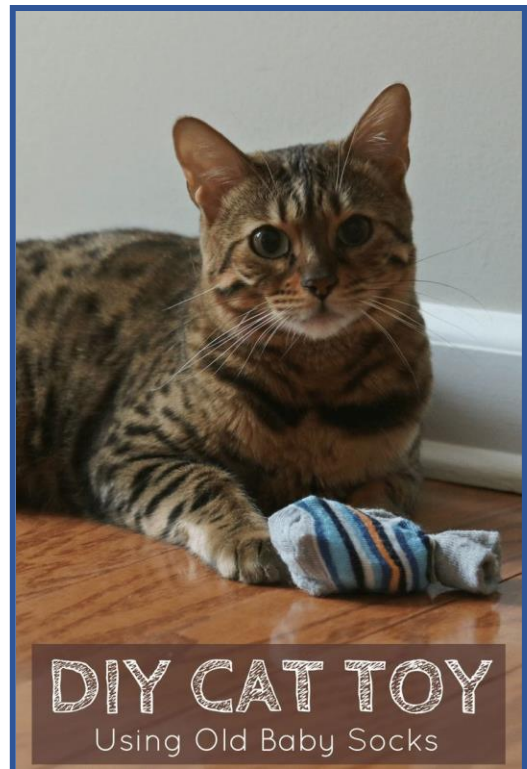
# CATNIP TOY

## Materials:

- Baby or toddler sock OR felt fabric
- Dried Catnip
- Fabric scraps or cotton balls
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Optional: bells, beads, etc.

## Instructions:

1. For the sock toy, put dried catnip in the sock and then stuff with fabric scraps or cotton balls. Tie a knot to close off the top of the sock (or tie off with yarn).
2. To make the goldfish toy, measure and cut a circle, approximately 5-6" in diameter. Gather the felt circle between your thumb and forefinger to make a small pouch. Spoon some dried catnip in the pouch and then stuff tightly with fabric scraps or cotton balls. Tie off and tightly knot the pouch with yarn. If desired, draw cute faces for an added touch of fun or knot bells or beads on the yarn strings for more entertainment!



# CORK TOY

## Materials:

- Wine corks
- Epoxy glue or hot glue gun
- Trimmings like jute, raffia, etc.
- Scissors or a screwdriver

## Instructions:

1. Use the scissors or screwdriver to make a 1" deep hole in one end of the cork. *\*Note: you can steam or boil the corks to make them easier to cut. Be sure to let the corks dry completely before adding glue and trimmings.*
2. Twist the selected trimmings around each other to make a point.
3. Squirt a little epoxy or hot glue into the hole in the cork, then add the pointed end of the trimmings to the hole. Allow to dry completely to ensure the decorations stay in place!



*Note: Although pictured above, we no longer recommend using pipe cleaners in cat toys as kittens have a tendency to swallow pieces of them.*

# CAT WAND

## Materials:

- Wooden Dowel
- Bells
- Fabric scraps - ribbons, clean shoe laces, yarn, etc.
- Scissors
- Optional: Baker's Twine or similar to cover the dowel and Fabric Glue

## Instructions:

1. To make your wand look "irresistible", begin by wrapping the plain wooden dowel with Baker's Twine. When you finish wrapping the dowel, leave an excess amount {10-12 inches} so that you can tie your fabric scraps to the end. Use a small amount of fabric glue to secure the twine to the dowel, so that it doesn't unravel. **OR**
2. Drill a small hole in one end of the wooden dowel and thread a long piece of the Baker's Twine through the hole. Tie the twine in a knot to secure it to the wooden dowel.
3. Take all of your fabric scraps and tie them to the end of the Baker's Twine.
4. Select different scraps of fabric and tie on the jingle bells for added fun!





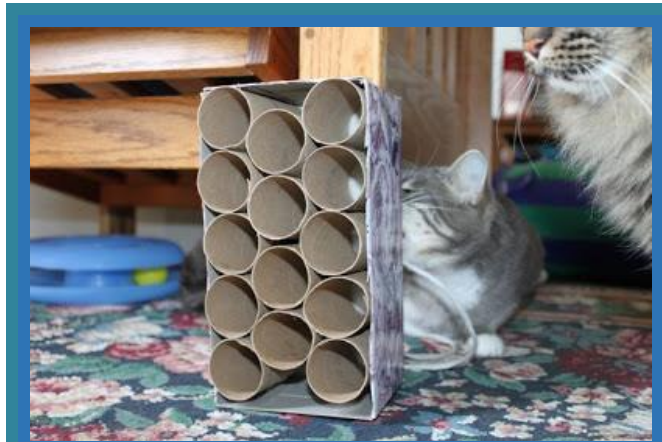
# CAT PUZZLE

## Materials:

- Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- Empty square or rectangle tissue box or a shoe box
- Hot glue gun
- Scissors

## Instructions:

1. If using a tissue box, cut off the top so that the box is open.
2. Cut the tubes to the same length as the height of the box if needed.
3. Place the tubes in the box, gluing each one in place as you go. Continue until the box is filled snugly with the tubes.
4. Deliver to the shelter, and we will fill the tubes with treats to keep our cats busy and entertained!



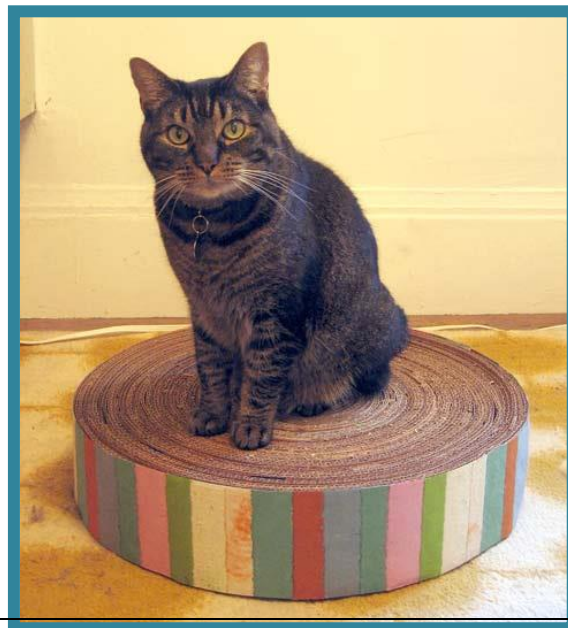
# CAT SCRATCH CIRCLE

## Materials:

- Cardboard boxes (all sizes, all kinds, at least 5 medium size boxes)
- Masking tape
- Scissors and ruler
- scrap paper, felt, or fabric
- Optional: decorative paper or fabric, markers

## Instructions:

1. Choose a height for the pad, (The example shown is 4").
2. Measure and cut your cardboard in identical width strips. Cut so that the ridges in the cardboard are going horizontally across the strips.
3. Start rolling the cardboard in your hands and bending at each corrugation. The cardboard will start to curl naturally.
4. Tightly wind one strip into a circle and tape closed. This will be the core.
5. Add a new piece and secure with two pieces of masking tape. Choose which side will be the top and make sure that side is always even. It is less important if the other side is slightly uneven; it will still sit properly and the top will look perfect.
6. Keep adding cardboard! Tape each piece right next to the end of the last piece and keep the coiling tight.
7. Cut your decorative paper or fabric and wrap it around the outside. Tape to close. If you prefer, you can draw fun designs or pictures for our cats to enjoy!
8. Place the finished coil onto the scrap fabric or paper and trace and cut out the circle. Tape or glue to the bottom so that we can sprinkle the scratcher with catnip, and it won't spill out!



# CARDBOARD SCRATCH POST

## Materials:

- 12" x 12" x ½" plywood board
- 36" Wooden dowel
- Corrugated cardboard
- 1 ½" wood screw
- X-Acto knife
- Power drill
- Glue

## Instructions:

1. Mark the center of your board and drill a hole.
2. Drill a hole in the center of the dowel.
3. Drill the screw all the way through the board. Using a screwdriver to hold the screw in place, take the dowel in your other hand and twist it onto the screw. Keep twisting until it's securely on.
4. Prepare the cardboard pieces: using the X-Acto knife, cut multiple cardboard squares measuring 6 x 6 inches. Cut out a hole in the middle of each piece the size of the dowel.
5. Stack the cardboard pieces onto the wooden dowel until you've reached the top. Arrange the pieces as desired to create different designs, gluing as you go to keep the pieces in place. You can cap the dowel instead of gluing pieces. *Note: You can also use a stacked cardboard base if preferred and glue pieces together(see below).*





# TRAFFIC CONE

## CAT SCRATCHER

### **Materials:**

- Traffic cone
- Rope or sisal cord
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Scissors
- Yarn

### **Instructions:**

1. Starting at the bottom edge of the square base, apply a thin line of hot glue and press rope into glue. Continue to alternate between glue and rope as you work your way around, following the square shape of the base. As you get to the base of the cone, start working your way from wrapping it in a square shape into a circular shape. Wrap tightly and push down the rope as you go to avoid gaps.
2. Once you get near the top, get your pom-poms and poke the strings down through the hole in the top of the cone. Apply a dab of glue at the top and press the pom-pom strings into it. Apply more glue and wrap your rope over the pom-pom strings, encasing them within the rope. Switch back to full lines of glue near the top of the cone, gluing the rope to itself as you cover the hole in the top. Cut off excess rope.

You can find instructions for the fabric base cone here:

<http://www.sofancyblog.com/2013/10/make-it-traffic-cone-cat-scratching.html>



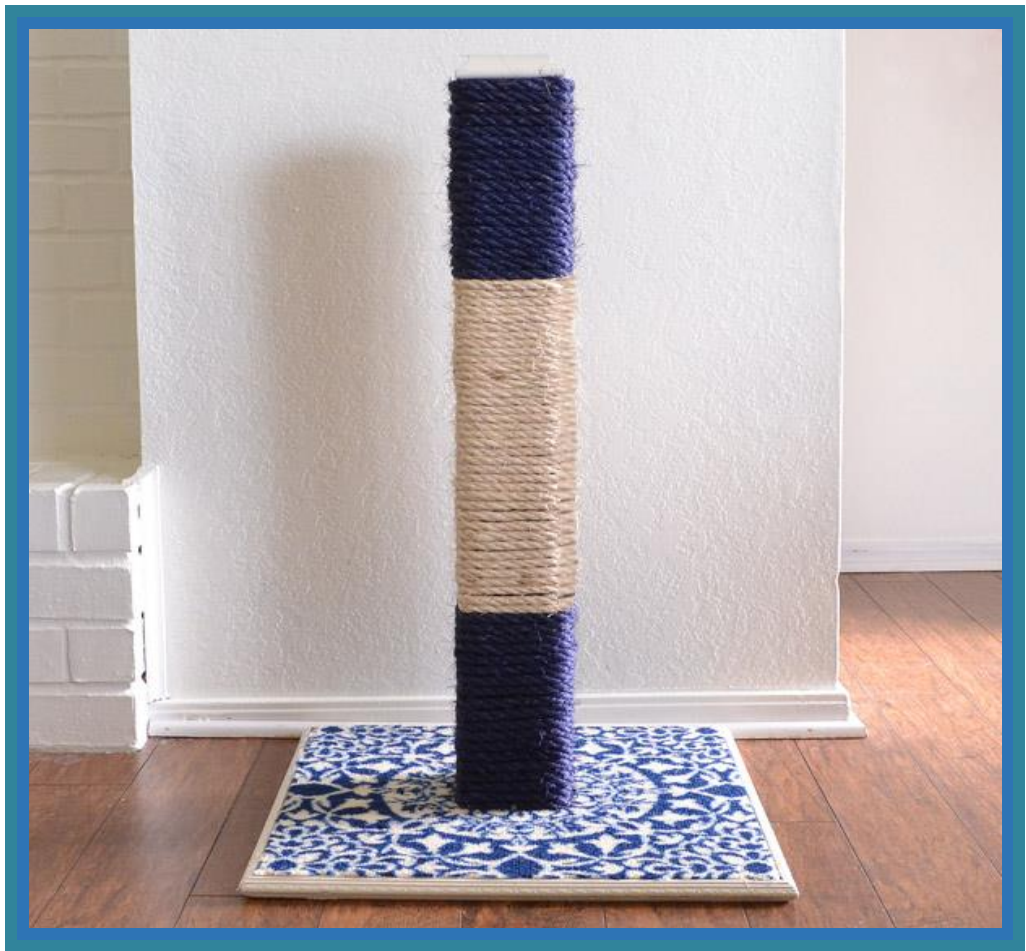
# CAT SCRATCH POST

## Materials:

- 4 x 4 wood fence post (cut to 20" length)
- Piece of wood for the bottom stand
- 100 feet of sisal rope
- Staple gun and/or nails
- Wood screws
- Craft knife (like X-acto)
- Optional: 4 x 4 fence post cap, power drill, rug to cover stand, hot glue gun

## Instructions:

1. Draw out the placement for your 4×4 post on the piece of wood. When working with a square, draw lines extending from each corner to make an "X" across the wood face. Align the square shape of your post's corners on each of the lines for a perfect center. Trace the square with a pencil. Put a thin line of wood glue inside of the square you have drawn. Place the post inside and hold. Clean up any glue that squeezes out, if necessary.
2. Turn the wood over and drill holes through your bottom square and the 4×4. Drill wood screws into the holes to permanently affix the two pieces of wood together.
3. If you have a decorative cap, attach it now. Stain the entire piece and allow to sit overnight.
4. If you'd like to use a rug to cover the stand, cut a rug to size with a 4×4 square in the middle and with a slit at the back to wrap on the wood and around the 4×4. Use wood glue to affix. You can also paint the bottom stand if you prefer or use a permanent marker to draw fun pictures or designs or write friendly messages for our cats to enjoy!
5. Take the end of your sisal rope and using your hammer and trim screws, attach to the 4 x 4 at the bottom. Wrap the rope snugly around the post, occasionally using a nail to tack down as necessary. You may also use hot glue to attach the sisal rope.



# NO SEW

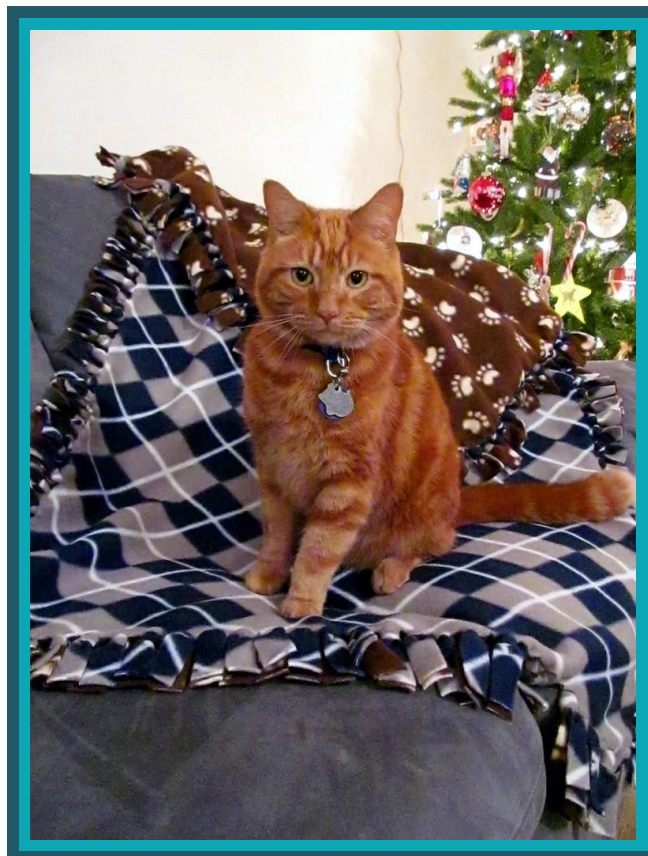
## CAT BLANKET

### Materials:

- Sharp scissors
- Fleece fabric

### Instructions:

1. Determine the dimensions of the blanket you wish to make, and cut two pieces so that they are the same size (approximately 2' x 3' is a good size for cats and smaller for kittens).
2. Place the fabric pieces one on top of the other, and then cut strips about 2 cm wide and 10 cm long around the entire piece of fabric. Cut through both pieces of fabric at the same time.
3. Once all sides are cut, knot the top and bottom strips together until all of the strips are tied!  
\*Please do not add any stuffing inside the blanket.



# CAT CONDO COVER

## Materials:

- Gently used sheets, pillowcases, curtains, or any other prewashed, washable fabric
- Scissors
- Thread, pins, needle

## Instructions:

1. Cut your fabric about 2 or 3 inches wider and 4 or 5 inches longer than the door size. (Door size is 29.5"W x 29"L)
2. **Fold each side twice to cover the raw edge, pin or press, stitch your hems. Finished rectangle should be about 3 inches longer than the door length and about an inch wider.**
3. Measure and mark the door length on each side of your hemmed rectangle, fold at the marks and stitch down the cap with a narrow seam on the outside edges.

***Hint: Cut a strip of heavy cardboard the width of the door and use it to measure the sewing line for the cap. If the cap fits easily over the cardboard strip, it will fit the top of the door!***





# Volunteer Hours Log

Please list all volunteer hours completed. We will sign off on up to 15 hours of service each month.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Time	Project	Please explain how you completed this project
		Made enrichment items	
		Collected supplies	
		Had a bake sale	
		Made and posted flyers for my donation drive or bake sale	
		Posted Flyers	
		Posted on Facebook	
		Recruited friends to help me	
		Other project:	
		Other project:	
		TOTAL HOURS	<b>Thank you for volunteering!</b>

**San Diego Humane Society Acknowledgment of Donation:**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name and title: \_\_\_\_\_

